

NEWS UPDATE

**Shelby County Office of Preparedness-Memphis & Shelby County
Emergency Management Agency-Bob Nations, Director**

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
(901) 515-2525**



September 4, 2008

Evening Update

What's New Since the Last Update?

- **Almost 900 FEMA-assisted evacuees who had been staying in Jackson, Tennessee and Lavinia, Tennessee were brought back to Memphis this evening by charter buses. The evacuees are being loaded on an Amtrak train for their ride home to the Gulf Coast.**
- **Most of the FEMA-assisted evacuees being sheltered in Memphis will leave for home tomorrow night (Friday, September 5) by Amtrak train.**
- **However, those with “special needs” will be taken back to the Gulf Coast by charter bus. It’s not certain WHEN the special needs evacuees will leave. It is expected to be Saturday or Sunday. We’ll keep you posted about the departure times.**
- **Many of the “special needs” evacuees have medical conditions. The journey by bus will be faster and more convenient than the train trip.**
- **FEMA has also announced it will reimburse evacuees for some expenses as a result of the hurricane. Evacuees need to keep all receipts for lodging and other expenses. All evacuees also need to register with FEMA’s Disaster Assistance program at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).**

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- **Although many evacuees traveled home today, others continue to stay at area shelters. With power still out in several Gulf Coast communities, some evacuees may be forced to stay in Memphis for several more days. The EMA is continually assessing how many shelters will be needed. We will keep you updated about shelter availability.**
- **Here are some helpful numbers for evacuees provided by the *Louisiana Recovery Authority*:**
 - 1. Safe Return to Parish:** Call 1-866-288-2485 or log on to emergency.louisiana.gov.
 - 2. Road Closures:** 1-888-762-3511 (out-of-state) or 511(in-state).
 - 3. Find family in a shelter:** 1-800-957-1601.
 - 4. Sheltered Pet Information:** 1-800-558-9741
 - 5. Food Stamp Questions:** 1-888-524-3578
 - 6. Report Price Gouging:** 1-800-351-4889

Shelter Status:

Two shelters closed today. However, almost 2,000 evacuees continue to reside at seven (7) shelters specifically for FEMA-assisted evacuees and 13 others for residents displaced by the hurricane:

1. Bishop Byrne High School-1475 East Shelby Drive
2. Hollywood Community Center-1560 North Hollywood
3. Memphis Catholic High School-61 North McLean
4. Hope Presbyterian Church-8500 Walnut Grove Road
5. White Station Church of Christ-1101 Colonial Road
6. Bellevue Baptist Church-2000 Appling Road
7. Cummings Street Baptist Church-250 East Raines Road
8. Goodman Oaks Baptist Church-1700 Goodman Road, Southaven, Mississippi
9. Longview Heights Baptist Church-4501 Goodman Road, Olive Branch, Mississippi
10. Southaven Multipurpose Arena-7360 Highway 51, Southaven, Mississippi
11. First Baptist Church of West Memphis, Arkansas-200 Missouri Street
12. G.W. Henderson Senior Center-1165 Abbay Street, Tunica, Mississippi
13. Marion First Baptist Church-2137 Highway 77 Marion, Arkansas

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Local numbers to call for help and information:

1. **211 LINC Line (Memphis Public Library and Information Center)**
2. **(901) 324-8799 (answered from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m.)**
3. **(901) 515-2525 EMA Operations Command Center. This number is answered 24 hours a day.**

A Word About Shelters

► **We do not foresee a need to open any additional shelters at this time. Should faith-based organizations want to assist with needs at an existing shelter, the Emergency Operations Center should be contacted at (901) 515-2525.**

DONATIONS NEEDED

- **Personal care items**-toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, hairbrushes, combs, etc.
- **Baby supplies**-baby food, baby wipes, diapers
- **Entertainment items for children**-crayons, coloring books, poster boards, etc.
- **Food**-canned or prepackaged items are being accepted

Donations may be dropped off at a warehouse at 994 South Bellevue between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers: Volunteers are **NEEDED** to help during the relief effort to work at area shelters seeing the needs of evacuees and serving food. MIFA also needs help building travel kits for the FEMA-assisted evacuees who will leave Memphis by Amtrak train. Call the volunteer hotline **(901) 324-8799** between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. for information or the 211 Library LINC.

Pets: Only “service dogs” are permitted in the shelter. The Memphis Humane Society-935 Farm Road and the Collierville Animal Shelter-603 East South Street are boarding pets for evacuees.

Food: The Memphis City Schools and many area churches are also serving food at shelters.

Transportation: Provided by Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) buses.

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Area attractions: Many tourist attractions are discounting rates or allowing free admission for evacuees. Contact the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau at **(901) 543-5375**.

Crime victims: Evacuees who are victims of crime may call the Shelby County Crime Victims Center at **(901) 543-HELP (4357)** from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The center is located at 600 Adams Avenue.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness/EMA Operations Center is open 24 hours a day. For additional information, call **(901) 515-2525**.

(END OF RELEASE)